

THE LAS VEGAS WEEKLY OPTIC AND STOCK GROWER.

Fourteenth Year—No 51

LAS VEGAS, NEW MEXICO MARCH 12, 1898.

\$2.00 a Year.

THE GRANT QUESTION.

There are some subjects of which one grows weary after years of ineffectual effort; yet usually such are of the character that weariness cannot be tolerated.

Take for instance the Las Vegas grant. This subject has been discussed by THE OPTIC, during the last fifteen years, through hundreds of columns of editorials and from every conceivable point of view. There have been line upon line and precept upon precept, argument, exhortation, controversy, pleading and platitudes. If anything has remained unsaid, it has been because neither editors, claimants, correspondents, lawyers, surveyors, nor the people at large could think of the thing unsaid.

Yet the grant question has not been settled. It still hangs upon the wheels of Las Vegas progress, retarding advance and neutralizing natural advantages. Had there never been a Las Vegas grant, or had it been settled years ago, the dual city would now be in the strength of young manhood instead of in a condition of promising childhood. Nor can hope be had of full fruition, of actual possession of undeniable possibilities, until this constantly increasing damage be removed out of the way.

Hence, though nothing new can be said upon the subject, the people and the press of Las Vegas cannot give it pause. They cannot cast it behind them, remove it from their thoughts, or in any way treat it as a thing that has been. It is the always-present issue, the ever unavoidable hindrance to our successfully achieving the destiny nature has designed for us. And as the old Roman wound up all his speeches regardless of the topic he was discussing, with "Carthage must be destroyed;" so should Las Vegas people and papers never cease to declare that "the grant must be settled!"

It may be said for our encouragement that the prospects of early settlement are better now than ever before. But for the very remarkable decision of the United States supreme court, dismissing land suits because of change in the person of the Secretary of the Interior, this case had doubtless already been retired to the limbo of settled contentions. As it is, the case was taken up anew, and has been pressed with remarkable vigor and

success. It now remains for the people of this city to come forward at once and contribute the necessary funds to push the hearing to an immediate conclusion. Of course, a great law suit cannot be carried on without money, and no one can be expected to contribute but those who gain the benefit of the settlement.

No one can deny that every man, woman and child, in all Las Vegas, is personally and permanently interested in the settlement of this case. Not in any particular settlement, for then there might be clashing of contending interests. What is demanded is the settlement of the grant in so far that the United States shall step down and out, conveying the grant to some kind or character of owner. When this shall have been done, then the courts of the Territory can speedily and finally determine the weight of conflicting claims. In the present status no one owns the grant, and no one can own it or any part of it. Thus Las Vegas is virtually situated about the center of a 500,000 acre tract of desert—a desert made by law despite everything which nature has done to make it a garden.

The settlement of the grant question means the greatest possible change in this particular. It means an increase of agricultural population, stimulating every town interest and bringing prosperity heretofore unheard of. Is not this worth striving for? Can not the whole community come together and act promptly and liberally? And can not this be done at once? Let the people reply.

Feeding Sheep on Beet Pulp.

Eddy Argus.

A. J. Crawford, who is feeding sheep at the sugar factory, brought in a bunch of about 1,800 last week from his ranch and now has them on alfalfa and beet pulp. This makes about 2,500 sheep in the corrals near the factory, presenting quite an industrious appearance. The sheep will lamb there, the season having already commenced. Mr. Crawford also received by express four pure-bred Cotswolds from Canada—one buck and three ewes. The buck weighs over 300 pounds and his wool measures over a foot in length. Sheared soon after his arrival here, the fleece weighed nineteen pounds. He expects to greatly improve the grade of his herd by this addition. The sheep being fed on alfalfa and pulp continue to show the good effects of the diet. They are taking on weight rapidly.

When You Want Anything Think of Ilfeld's

ILFELD'S THE PLAZA
LAS VEGAS, N. M.

sells

Everything

(WHOLESALE & RETAIL.)

The biggest store of the kind in the Territory is now filled completely with great assortments in every department.

Dry Goods, Millinery, Clothing, Hats, Shoes,
Carpets, Furniture, Crockery,
Hardware, Stoves, Tinware, Implements,
Bain Wagons, Ranch Supplies

Always visit us when in town.

Send us your mail orders.

Agent for Butterick Patterns and 'Delineator'

FIRST NATIONAL BANK,
Las Vegas, New Mexico.

JOSHUA RAYNOLDS, President.
J. W. ZOLLARS, Vice President.
A. B. SMITH, Cashier.

Interest Paid on Time Deposits.

Depository of Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad

Special Attention Given to New Mexico Collections.
as of any Bank in New Mexico.

J. M. HERNANDEZ.
Live Stock Broker,
Will sell and buy Cattle, Sheep, Horses.
Correspondence Solicited. P. O. Box 317, Las Vegas, N. M.

"SANTA FE ROUTE."

Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe. Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe Ry. Atlantic & Pacific R. R. Southern California Ry.

THROUGH SLEEPING CAR SERVICE TO
Chicago, City of Mexico, Los Angeles, San Diego and San Francisco.
also to GALVESTON and the principal points in Texas.

F. H. BOUGHTON, General Agent, El Paso, Tex.
W. J. BLACK, G. P. & T. Agt., Topeka, Kansas.
The Santa Fe is the great popular cattle line. All stock trains equipped with air brakes. Latest improved stock car equipment. For rates, full information and valuable facts for cattle shippers, address:
Or, GEO. L. BROOKS, Live Stock Agt., ALBUQUERQUE, N. M.
ELI TITUS, Gen'l Live Stock Agent, Union Stock Yards, KANSAS CITY